GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1298
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
THEFT OF BUDDHA`S IDOL FROM MUSEUM
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rare, sandstone head of Buddha, brought from Sarnath was stolen from the Kolkata museum`s Archaeology Long Gallery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. One sculpture named `Buddha Head (Sarnath)` was found missing from the Archaeological Gallery of Indian Museum, Kolkata on 29th December, 2004. The matter has been referred to the Kolkata Police for investigation. After the incident the entire security system of Indian Museum has been further strengthened and additional CCTV have been installed with recording facilities. The Ministry has reviewed from time to time the security arrangements of all the museums and passed necessary directions. The Government has also constituted a Security Committee to look into the issues related to Museum Security, which has members from CISF and IB. The mandate of the committee is to review the existing policy and practices of selected museums, identify critical gaps, and to recommend minimum standard for Museum Security measures that are at par with International Standard. The Committee has already started functioning.